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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,067	07/22/2003	Gary J. Collins	990019 DO1	8253

7590 01/23/2004
Marathon Oil Company
Attn: Marie LaCour Murphey
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P.O. Box 4813
Houston, TX 77210-4813

EXAMINER

DANG, HOANG C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/625,067

Applicant(s)

COLLINS ET AL.

Examiner

Hoang Dang

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7/22/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 8, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alexander et al (US 5,960,873).

The claimed structure reads exactly on the reference's when members (15), (21), (22) and (23) in Figures 1-4 are respectively considered as "body", "tubular inlet leg", "tubular main outlet leg" and "tubular offset outlet leg" as recited.

As for claim 8, see "pressure seal" 33.

As for claims 23-24, see "initial template" 15b and "first additional template" 15a in Figure 1.

3. Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneider et al (US 5,099,919) or Dale et al (US 2,745,497).

The claimed structure reads exactly on the reference's when members (20), (18), (30) and (24) of Schneider et al or members (16), (18), (30) and (24) of Dale et al are respectively considered as "body", "tubular inlet leg", "tubular main outlet leg" and "tubular offset outlet leg" as recited.

As for claim 8, see "pressure seal" 50 in Schneider et al or 23 in Dale et al.

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4. Claims 1-5 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rickey (US 4,646,839).

The claimed structure reads exactly on the reference's when members (15), (25) (portion of 15a above transverse bore 15c), (portion of 15a below transverse bore 15c), (15b), (25b,25c) and (28a,28b) in the embodiment of Figure 2 of Rickey are respectively considered as "template", "straddle assembly", "tubular inlet leg", "tubular main outlet leg", "tubular offset outlet leg", "proximal seal" and "distal seal" as recited.

As for claim 8, see "pressure seal" 15d in Figure 2.

As for claim 10, see "offset plug" 15d.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 16-22 are allowed.
6. Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Specification

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The parent application recited on the first page of the specification should be updated.

Appropriate correction is required.

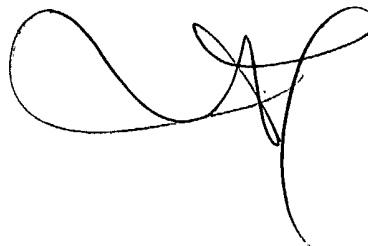
Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Dang whose telephone number is 703-308-2149. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:15-5:45 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Bagnell can be reached on 703-308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2168.

**Hoang Dang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a vertical line and a small flourish at the end.

10625067.1rej
January 20, 2004